

**Statement on the Resignation of
Arthur Levitt as Chairman of the
Securities and Exchange
Commission**

December 20, 2000

I would like to express my deep gratitude to Arthur Levitt for his almost 8 years as Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission. As the longest serving Chairman in the Commission's history, Arthur's leadership, experience, and steadfast dedication have helped promote and sustain America's capital markets as the very finest in the world, during a period marked by a renewed emphasis on innovation, entrepreneurship, and investing. This time of unprecedented growth has brought new and unique challenges to America's markets, and Arthur Levitt led the SEC's response to the forces of technology, competition, and globalization.

Above all else, he has been a true champion of the individual investor. He has worked tirelessly to educate and protect America's investors, speaking to thousands of investors in Investor Town Hall Meetings across the country. In addition, he has worked to put more information and greater power in the hands of investors, increasing transparency in the marketplace, and making financial information accessible to everyone. He has responded quickly to the rise in Internet fraud by launching an Internet enforcement team to prosecute it.

In a period when timely and accurate financial information is more critical than ever before, Arthur led campaigns to improve the quality of financial reporting and sponsored market initiatives to increase market disclosure and lower costs for investors. America's capital markets and its investors have benefited significantly from Chairman Levitt's enduring vision, judicious oversight, and abiding sense of fair play. I wish Arthur and his wife, Marylin, all the best in their future endeavors, and join our Nation's investors in

thanking him for his years of commitment and public service.

**Statement on the Death
of John Lindsay**

December 20, 2000

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death of John Lindsay. As a Member of Congress, and later as mayor, John Lindsay built a remarkable rapport with the people of New York City—people of every race, in every neighborhood, in every walk of life. In times of great change, John Lindsay was a progressive yet pragmatic force for the public interest. New Yorkers and all Americans will miss not only his confident style but his commitment to social progress for all.

**Statement on Action by India and
Pakistan To Reduce Tensions in
Kashmir**

December 20, 2000

I welcome today's announcements by both India and Pakistan aimed at reducing tensions in Kashmir. The decision by Prime Minister Vajpayee that India will continue the ceasefire it initiated last month in Kashmir is an important step forward. In the meetings we held earlier this year the Prime Minister told me of his determination to pursue a course of peace in Kashmir. I applaud today's announcement as a sign of his continuing commitment to that course. This initiative, along with Pakistan's announcement today that it will withdraw part of its forces deployed along the Line of Control and its earlier decision to exercise maximum restraint there, raises the hopes of the world community that peace is possible in Kashmir. To achieve that end, I continue to believe that all parties should reject violence and work for a peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialog.

**Statement on Signing the
Chimpanzee Health Improvement,
Maintenance, and Protection Act***December 20, 2000*

I am today signing into law H.R. 3514, the “Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance, and Protection Act.” This Act is a valuable affirmation of the Federal Government’s responsibility and moral obligation to provide an orderly system to ensure a secure retirement for surplus Federal research chimpanzees and to meet their lifetime needs for shelter and care. However, I sign this measure with reservations concerning flaws in the bill that the next Administration and the Congress should correct to ensure the viability and effectiveness of the proposed sanctuary system.

The Act requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a sanctuary system of lifetime care for chimpanzees that have been used by Federal Government entities for research and that are determined to be no longer needed for research. The sanctuary system is to be operated by a nonprofit private entity with appropriate expertise under contract with the Secretary, under standards established by the Secretary and meeting the criteria established in the Act. Chimpanzees accepted into the sanctuary system may be used for further research only if stringent conditions are met, including a determination by the sanctuary operator’s board that the research design minimizes harm to the chimpanzee. At the Secretary’s discretion, and upon payment of such fees as the Secretary may establish, chimpanzees that are not “surplus chimpanzees” from Federal research programs may be accepted into the system.

Certain aspects of this Act will require amendment to eliminate defects relating to biomedical research and to the viability of the proposed sanctuary system.

The Act puts severe constraints on use of a chimpanzee for further research, once it has been declared “surplus” and accepted into the sanctuary system. Before it could thereafter be used, other than for noninvasive behavioral research, the Secretary must determine that extremely stringent criteria are met concerning the indis-

pensability of that particular chimpanzee and the key nature of the research. In addition, the board of directors of the nonprofit entity operating the sanctuary must determine that the research design minimizes physical and mental harm to the chimpanzee—a determination that can be set aside only if the Secretary finds it arbitrary or capricious. Finally, the Secretary’s and board’s determinations must be published for a public comment period of not less than 60 days. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other HHS components using chimpanzees in research already employ a rigorous screening procedure required by law to assess the necessity and quality of any research using chimpanzees. The added criteria mandated by H.R. 3514 are complex and give insufficient weight to important public health issues, which could prevent or delay valuable biomedical research. In addition, of the total number of chimpanzees that have participated in biomedical research, over 250 are currently being maintained by NIH at a military installation. These chimpanzees may or may not be declared surplus, and I am signing this legislation with the understanding that implementation will neither conflict with the installation’s military mission, nor further burden the installation’s national security requirements.

Other concerns about H.R. 3514 relate to the administrative structure and funding of the proposed sanctuary system. Prescriptive details concerning organization and management, notably with respect to the qualification, terms, and role of the nonprofit operator’s board of directors, eliminate flexibility to respond appropriately to unforeseen and varied circumstances. The requirement to contract with a single nonprofit entity to operate the sanctuary system presents the risk that, if that entity withdraws or ceases to qualify for the contract, there will be no alternatives for placement of the chimpanzees in the system. In addition, the bill virtually eliminates any Federal role in the operation or oversight of the system, although the Federal Government will remain responsible for the welfare of the chimpanzees accepted into the system.

Despite the concerns detailed above, I am approving H.R. 3514. My Administration